



**SEIUHealthcare.**  
United for Quality Care

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SEIU District 1199NE  
Before the Finance Committee

**In Support of HB 5673 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN TAXES AND TAX EQUITY**

Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Denice Panella and I live in Preston. I'm a member of SEIU1199 which has approximately 26,000 members in the state. Our organization fights for all to be treated with respect & dignity, livable wages, health insurance for all, and a pension for all. We belong to Recovery For All – a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for Connecticut, bringing together more than 60 communities, faith, and labor organizations.

**I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity.** As the wealthiest state in the country, Connecticut should be a shining example for the nation where every family has what we need to live a good life. But instead, we have a state where hundreds of thousands of working people are struggling to raise families, even while a handful of wealthy corporations and wealthy residents are getting even wealthier. The scale of this crisis demands a bold response—people are suffering, and our state has a responsibility and has the resources to enact policies that provide for Connecticut families.

I am a Registered Nurse in a nursing home. I have worked at the same facility for 21 years and I only make \$34.77 an hour. We had multiple years of wage freezes and when we did get a raise it was only 10-20 cents an hour. While our hourly wages stayed low, the cost of everything in the state went up. Inflation has caused so much suffering. I have to choose which bills to pay and not pay in order to provide food on the table. The cost of gas for travel went from \$50/week to \$200/week. The cost to heat our home with propane went from \$150 to \$300 a bill. Groceries for my family of 3 went from \$150/week to \$400/week. There was a recent home value reassessment completed on our house. I have never heard of a house appreciation over time. I thought everything was supposed to depreciate over time. Our property taxes increased to over \$3,000/year. We can no longer

afford our home and are looking to relocate to North Carolina. I ended up having to take on two other jobs. I work 3 jobs and I still cannot afford to live in Connecticut. I never get to see my family, let alone have time to sleep. Long term health care workers are suffering. It is unbelievably sad to hear that working people are losing their houses or being evicted from their apartments, leaving them no choice but to relocate or live out of their car or in a shelter.

We have an unprecedented opportunity – and the resources – to create a state where everyone has good healthcare to lead healthy lives, high quality childcare and schools for their kids, a good job to support their families, and a safe place to call home. **I urge the Committee to have the courage to make the right choice and pass House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity.** Thank you for your time.